



Shine On Boston

Powering our neighborhoods with solar energy

Too much of our energy comes from harmful fossil fuels that damage our environment, change our climate and make people sick.

Boston is already experiencing the effects of climate change. This past November, flooding caused the closure of Gallivan Boulevard and Morrissey Boulevard in Dorchester. If global warming pollution continues at high levels, experts have predicted sea levels could rise by as much as 10 feet by the end of the century. Rising temperatures could also lead to Boston experiencing up to 90 days each summer with temperatures above 90 °F, threatening the health of residents.

Fortunately, it doesn't have to be this way. We can power our lives with 100 percent renewable energy and ensure cleaner air, healthier communities, and a safer climate.

Solar is going to play a big role in how we get there. It's clean and pollution free, it's abundant, and it's available practically anywhere — including on the roofs of our homes and businesses.

By going big on solar, Boston can transition away from harmful fossil fuels while saving residents money on their energy bills and making our communities more resilient. In the 2019 *Carbon Free Boston* report, rooftop solar was highlighted as a key element of the city's transition off of fossil fuels, with the potential to provide up to 20 percent of the city's predicted electricity demand.

We're asking the next leader of the city to chart a bold path forward to a clean future powered by solar energy, where our kids can live healthy, prosperous lives free from the dangerous effects of fossil fuels.

We envision a future where Boston is getting more clean, renewable energy from solar panels on the roofs of our homes, apartment buildings, businesses, government buildings, and institutions. **By 2030, Boston should install the equivalent of 25,000 solar roofs — 250 megawatts of rooftop solar — across the city.**

Our platform:

1. Ensure solar panels are installed on the roofs of all new residential and commercial buildings where feasible.
2. Expand access to solar energy for low income households and environmental justice communities.
3. Establish a “one-stop-shopping” clean energy website where residents, businesses, and building owners can learn about incentives and financing programs for rooftop solar, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, and clean heating, and connect with trusted installers.
4. Connect residents and small businesses to affordable solar energy options through citywide programs based on the successful Solarize model.
5. Reduce barriers to installing solar by streamlining the permitting process.
6. Install rooftop solar on all municipal buildings where feasible, and pair solar with energy storage to enhance the resilience of critical services.
7. Identify large commercial and institutional buildings with the highest rooftop solar potential in the city, and work with building owners to install solar.
8. Use the city’s Community Choice Electricity program to increase the amount of solar energy, including from local solar installations, provided as part of the default electricity mix to residents and businesses.